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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Paul Tracy

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EXAMINER

WEINMAN, SEAN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2115

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/623,479	Applicant(s) TRACY ET AL.	
	Examiner Sean Weinman	Art Unit 2115	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed on 20 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 22-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-11 and 13-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the amendment filed on June 20, 2006. *Claims 1-24* are pending.

5 *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

10 (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

15 *Claims 10 and 13-15* are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over the Applicant's Admission of Prior Art (AAPA).

As per claim 10, the AAPA teaches the claimed invention comprising:

A method for loading configuration data for a configuration word comprised of a
20 plurality of configuration blocks into a programmable device (*Figure 1*), the method comprising:
receiving a command word via a plurality of command inputs designating a first subset of
the plurality of configuration blocks (*Paragraph [0013]* *The examiner is taking the position that
the first subset is all of the configuration blocks*);
receiving a data word comprising a portion of the configuration data for configuration
25 word via a plurality of configuration inputs (*Paragraph [0013]*); and

simultaneously loading the data word into each one of the subset of configuration blocks designated by the command word (*Paragraphs [0013] and [0020] The AAPA teaches that all of the configuration blocks are loaded simultaneously in response to the clock signal*).

As per claim 13, the AAPA teaches the claimed invention comprising:

5 The method of claim 10, wherein the command word comprises a plurality of command bits, such that each command bit is associated with one of the plurality of configuration blocks (*Figure 1*).

As per claim 14, the AAPA teaches the claimed invention comprising:

10 The method of claim 10, wherein at least one of the configuration block in the first subset of the plurality of configuration blocks comprises a plurality of bits equal in number to the number of configuration inputs (*Figure 1*).

As per claim 15, the AAPA teaches the claimed invention comprising:

The method of claim 10, further comprising:

15 loading configuration data from the plurality of configuration blocks into a memory location in a configuration memory (*Figure 1*).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

20 (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 11 and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicant's Admission of Prior Art (AAPA).

As per claim 11, the AAPA teaches the claimed invention comprising:

5 The method of claim 10, wherein the steps of receiving the command word, receiving the data word, and loading the data word are repeated for a second data word and a second command word designating a second subset of the plurality of configuration blocks (*Paragraph [0013] It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art having the process repeated to reconfigure the configuration blocks a second time with a second data word*).

As per claim 16, the AAPA teaches the claimed invention comprising:

10 The method of claim 10, further comprising:

receiving a configuration mode via a configuration mode input;

enabling the first subset of the plurality of configuration blocks to simultaneously load configuration data via the plurality of configuration inputs in response to a first state of the configuration mode; and

15 loading configuration data into the plurality of configuration blocks via an alternate communication means in response to a second state of the configuration mode (*Paragraph [0013] It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art having the process repeated to reconfigure the configuration blocks a second time with a second data word*).

As per claim 17, the AAPA teaches the claimed invention comprising:

20 The method of claims 16, wherein the alternate communication means is via the plurality of command inputs (*Figure 1 and Paragraph [0013]*).

As per claim 18, the AAPA teaches the claimed invention comprising:

The method of claim 16, wherein the alternate communication means is via the plurality of command inputs (*Figure 1 and Paragraph [0013]*).

As per claim 19, the AAPA teaches the claimed invention comprising:

5 The method of claim 16, wherein the loading configuration data into the plurality of configuration blocks comprises:

simultaneously loading one bit of configuration data into each of the plurality of configuration blocks (*Paragraph [0013]*).

As per claim 20, the AAPA teaches the claimed invention comprising:

10 The method of claim 10, further comprising:
testing the programmable device loaded with the configuration data (*It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to test the configuration of the device after it had been load with the configuration data*).

As per claim 21, the AAPA teaches the claimed invention comprising:

15 The method of claim 20, further comprising:
Repeating with a second set of configuration data the steps of receiving a second command word, receiving a second data word, loading the second data word, and testing in order to test the programmable device loaded with the second set of configuration data (*Paragraph [0013] It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art having the process repeated to reconfigure the configuration blocks a second time with a second data word also it would*
20 *have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to test the configuration of the device after it had been load with the configuration data*).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-9 and 22-24 are allowed.

Claim 12 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and
5 any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean Weinman whose phone number is (571) 272-2744. The
10 examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Lee can be reached on (571) 272-3667. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent
15 Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Sean Weinman
Examiner
Art Unit 2115


THOMAS LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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